

# MISSOURI STATE COMMITTEE OF INTERPRETERS



**FEBRUARY 2023**

**This is an official publication of the  
Division of Professional Registration.**

## **GOVERNOR**

The Honorable  
Michael L. Parson

## **MISSOURI DCI**

Chlora Lindley-Myers  
Director

## **DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION**

Sheila Solon  
Division Director

## **MISSOURI STATE COMMITTEE OF INTERPRETERS**

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Fulton, Missouri

John Adams, Secretary  
St. Louis, Missouri

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Rocheport, Missouri

Andrea Segura, Member  
Liberty, Missouri

Lisa Betzler, Deaf Public Member  
St. Louis, Missouri

Rochelle Harris, PhD, Public Member  
Kansas City, MO

One Interpreter Member, Vacant

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MISSOURI DIVISION OF  
**PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION**

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**Carrie McCray**  
**PhD, Chairperson**  
Fulton, Missouri



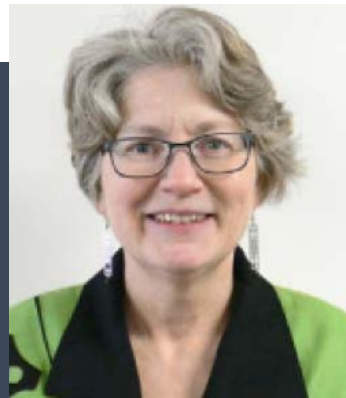
**John Adams**  
**Secretary**  
St. Louis, Missouri



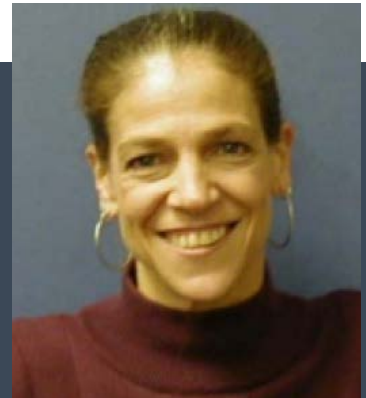
**Mary Kathleen Alexander**  
**Member**  
Rocheport, MO



**Andrea Segura**  
**Member**  
Liberty, Missouri



**Dr. Rochelle L. Harris**  
**Public Member**  
Kansas City, MO



**Lisa Betzler**  
**Deaf Public Member**  
Ballwin, MO



**Pam Groose**  
Executive Director

**VACANT**  
Interpreter Position



**Sheila Solon and  
Governor Parson**

## **CONGRATULATIONS SHEILA SOLON!**

It's official! Sheila Solon is the Division Director for Missouri's Division of Professional Registration. Appointed as Acting Division Director on January 6, 2021, she is now officially our Division Director. We are fortunate to have such a committed and energetic person as our guiding force in caring for Missouri's licensed professionals and the citizens of Missouri who they serve.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR ON MOPRO**



**Sheila Solon  
DIRECTOR OF DIVISION  
OF PROFESSIONAL  
REGISTRATION**

Professional Registration is thrilled to announce MOPRO, a new e-licensure system that will transform how more than 525,000 Missouri licensees in 300 professions do business with their licensure board. Through the use of American Recovery Act funding that was secured with the help and support of the Governor and Legislature, we will be modernizing and transforming how we conduct business for generations to come. Imagine the ability to obtain a professional license online, anywhere, anytime. This digital transformation strategically aligns with the Governor's initiative to focus on workforce development to meet the needs of the future.

- Ability to apply for and/or renew any professional license online
- Track license status and follow up requests
- Process payments with protection of personal information
- Download and print from the portal
- Reduce time and effort to procure a license
- Provide one true source of data
- Easy Online payment for Missourians

The greatest benefit is that it will empower applicants and licensees to have more control over their own future and destiny by vastly improving access to their application status and the ability to enter their own data into the system. This will also allow licensees to have access to their data 24/7, allowing them to obtain and renew their license faster and get them into the workforce sooner.

# WELCOME FROM CARRIE MCCRAY



**CARRIE MCCRAY,  
CHAIR OF COMMITTEE**

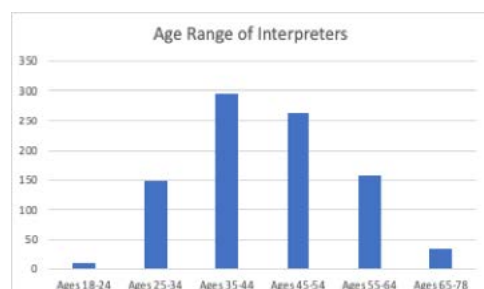
Welcome to the new year, I hope everyone is settling into 2023 with ease. I am not a fan of resolutions, but as we began 2023, I looked at the most common resolutions. Not surprising, getting into shape and improving personal health were high on the list, but also edging the top of the list were self-care and improving our mental health. We are in a high stress profession, so I challenge everyone to find 23 different opportunities throughout the year to care for yourself. Find at least 23 different opportunities to take the mental break and reset your day when you can. For me, this is a 10-minute walk, or a game of pickleball!! Do yourself a favor, and make sure to take care of yourself as we dig into this new year.

Much of our work as interpreters is returning to pre-pandemic operations, but some areas of our work are forever changed. The access provided through remote interpreting was critical for the Deaf community through the pandemic, and many positives to remote work were recognized. This aspect of our work is here to stay in an expanded capacity.

Finding opportunities to continue our professional development and training so that we are more comfortable with remote work is important.

Before the pandemic we were already facing a shortage of interpreters. It was not as obvious as it is now, but there were times that jobs could not be filled due to the needs outpacing the supply. Traditionally, the profession retires more interpreters than are brought in. Much of this is due to the change in processes for becoming an interpreter. With changes in educational training, and the requirements of certification, it is harder to get started in the field of interpreting. These were necessary and positive changes for the profession! They are advancing the services that we provide to the Deaf community. However, there is no denying it also slows down the process for many new interpreters.

Currently in the state of Missouri, the interpreting workforce makes an expected bell curve, but it is not exactly symmetrical. When you look at the breakdown of ages, the fewest number of interpreters is in the 18-24 range with 13 interpreters (1%). The majority of the interpreting workforce is between the ages of 35-54 (61%). Looking at the end of our age ranges though, there are 35 (3%) of certified/licensed interpreters age 65-78. This does not seem like a lot, but this data indicates that we are not on track to replace interpreters who are approaching retirement age.



The pause in certification testing was a critical variable in younger interpreters not entering the profession. Thankfully, certification testing is back up and running in many states. We are very fortunate that MCDHH worked so hard to get testing back up and running. The opportunity to take the test is only part of the solution.



I mention this to emphasize the need for mentoring and support for emerging interpreters. There are several years of graduates who faced many educational disruptions, were not able to complete a hands-on internship, and had no opportunity to test for certification. These potential interpreters need mentorship to get back into the flow of signing and the mindset of interpreting. Supporting incoming interpreters will help us grow our numbers back to a population of interpreters that can better meet the needs of our community. This is another reason I am challenging everyone to self-care. We need each of you in the state and on those remote calls to stay healthy and avoid burn out.

Welcome to my Ted Talk, and apologies for the soap box, but I think it is important that we see the numbers and talk about how we can be part of a solution.

Don't forget renewal time has passed, so make sure you have your new Certification card and your new Licensure card for the year with you!! If you have questions about licensure, please reach out to the office so that we can help. Since MCDHH is processing new certifications, don't forget that you can email a copy of the new certification card to State Committee of Interpreters with any needed paperwork and fees, and we will send you a new license with your updated credentials!! Just email us at: [interpreters@pr.mo.gov](mailto:interpreters@pr.mo.gov) and we can make it happen.

As always, let us know if you have any questions and know that while we are here to protect the Deaf consumers of Missouri, we are also a resource for interpreters. I wish you all a great 2023 and that we find ways to support each other in this altering landscape of interpreting.

Carrie McCray

State Committee of Interpreters

# CERTIFICATION VS. LICENSE

Here at the State Committee of Interpreters office, we often get calls asking about certification issues that we know nothing or very little about since we do not certify interpreters; we only license interpreters. It's very easy to get confused on what pertains to certification and what pertains to licensure and who to contact about what. We are always happy to take your call and direct you to someone else who can answer your questions, but perhaps we can clear up some of the confusion.

Certification can be acquired either on a national level through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) or on a state level, which in our case is the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH). These certifications are issued for one year and must be renewed annually. Most certifications with RID expire June 30 of every year. If you are certified through RID you must submit your Continuing Education hours, fees, and forms to RID prior to the expiration date each year. Certifications with MCDHH expire December 2 of every year, with the exception of Provisional Certificate in Education (PCED) certifications which expire one year from the issue date and are not renewable. If you are certified through MCDHH you must submit your Continuing Education hours, fees, and forms to MCDHH prior to December 2 each year.

Being certified as a Sign Language Interpreter is not enough to allow you to work as a Sign Language Interpreter in Missouri; you must also be licensed as a Sign Language Interpreter in Missouri. We issue Sign Language Interpreter licenses for one year, and these licenses must be renewed each year by January 31 except for PCED licenses which have the same expiration date that is on the PCED certification.

Regardless of whether you hold a RID certification or an MCDHH certification, or both, it is your responsibility to submit a copy of your new certification card to the Missouri State Committee of Interpreters as soon as possible in order to maintain your Missouri Sign Language Interpreters license. Without an updated certification card on file with us, your Interpreter license will be disqualified and you will not be able to work as an interpreter in Missouri.

The "take away" from this article is: it takes having both a current certification and current Missouri license to work as a sign language interpreter in the state of Missouri.

For questions concerning your certification, call MCDHH at 573-526-5205, or call RID at 703-838-0030. For questions about your license, call us at 573-526-7787, or e-mail us at [interpreters@pr.mo.gov](mailto:interpreters@pr.mo.gov).

# CONGRATULATIONS!

The State Committee of Interpreters offers a heartfelt thanks to all who have served professionally to help the citizens of Missouri. We'd like to recognize those of you who have reached a milestone as a licensed Interpreter in our state.

## LICENSED IN 2002: 20 YEARS AS A LICENSED INTERPRETER IN MISSOURI

KARLA BABIN, NIXA, MO

ANNETTE CATLETT, CAMDEN POINT, MO

ANGELA CULPEPPER, CHESTERFIELD, MO

KATHY DIBBERT, IMPERIAL, MO

JAMES ECK, GODFREY, IL

TACI HODGE, SPRINGFIELD, MO

MARGIE HOSKINS, NEW BLOOMFIELD, MO

CONNIE KING, INDEPENDENCE, MO

ELLEN KNOP, HAZELWOOD, MO

JUDITH LARSON, SAINT LOUIS, MO

CORINNE LIEDTKE, COLUMBIA, MO

KIMBERLY MACKAY, CLIVE, IA

NANCY MEDEARIS, KIRKWOOD, MO

AMY MILLER, GLEN CARBON, IL

DARLA NELSON, LEES SUMMIT, MO

KELLY OLDFIELD, MILLSTADT, IL

BECKI RHYNE, EDWARDSVILLE, IL

GINA STOKESBERRY, CRESTVIEW, FL

TERESA STURGEON, OLATHE, KS

MISHELY TISIUS, SAINT LOUIS, MO

## LICENSED IN 2012: 10 YEARS AS A LICENSED INTERPRETER IN MISSOURI

MICKI AUGUSTUS, TROY, MO

SAMANTHA BAUDENDISTEL, CAHOKIA, IL

EMMA BERCHENKO, MELBOURNE, FL

SAMANTHA CACY, OVERLAND PARK, KS

ROXANNE CARPENTER, OLATHE, KS

BROOKE CHAMBERS, FENTON, MO

NICOLE CHRISTY, PAPILLION, NE

ANDREA FERGUSON, SHAWNEE MISSION, KS

KIMBERLY FINNEY, SAINT CHARLES, MO

NADIA FRY, KANSAS CITY, MO

HEATHER GEISSER, CONCORD, NH

LINDA GRITTA, ASHEVILLE, NC

HANNAH HAYES, SAINT CHARLES, MO

CALLA LOVELL, OVERLAND PARK, KS

DEELAYNE MCCOY, LOUISVILLE, KY

DEBORAH MCQUINN-LEDoux, CROSSVILLE, TN

MOLLY PREATO, JUPITER, FL

LISA PRIEST, SAINT LOUIS, MO

CORY RICKABAUGH, FULTON, MO

JIM SELF, SOUTH ROXANA, IL

SHANE SPENCE, INDEPENDENCE, MO

KATELIN SUMNER, KANSAS CITY, MO

MELISSA WAGGENER, STAUNTON, IL

JESSICA WILSON, SAVANNAH, MO

# STATISTICS FY 19-22

## INTERPRETER FISCAL YEAR STATISTICS

State Committee of Interpreters	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Newly Issued Licenses	86	119	107	82
Complaints Opened	4	4	0	3
Complaints Closed	4	3	1	2
Disciplines	4	0	0	1
Did Not Renew	38	86	61	72

## Reminders

### Renewal

Around our office, the word ‘renewal’ is sort of a four-letter word, something we dread like going to the dentist to get a cavity drilled. When renewal time hits in our office, life gets a little bit stressful: the paper piles get considerably deeper, the e-mail inboxes fill up much more quickly, and the phones ring off the hook. Renewal time surely adds a little more stress to your life as well: ensuring all continuing education is completed and sent to certifying agencies, making sure certification is up-to-date and current card is on file with us, getting renewal forms and fees taken care of. We are ALL glad when the renewal period is behind us.

However, it would be a loss to us all if we didn’t take advantage of the renewal period to truly renew. What a perfect opportunity to renew our professional zest by reflecting on why we chose the profession we did! Along with paying fees and completing paperwork, we need to remind ourselves of all the little things we enjoy about our job, those things that drew us into the profession to begin with. As we check off another round of CE’s completed to keep our certification current, we need to revitalize our professional spirit by implementing some of the new ideas and approaches we’ve picked up through our continuing education. While we’re starting off on yet another cycle of work, we need to rekindle our appreciation for those people with whom, and for whom, we work who add a little more joy and purpose to our lives. When we approach renewal time with a true spirit of rejuvenation, we might actually look forward to the next renewal period instead of dreading it.



# DISCIPLINARY ACTION

## JULY 1, 2021-JANUARY 1, 2023

### **Crystal L Hays - Interpreter, 2001024814:**

*2-Year Probation / April 23, 2022-April 23, 2024*

On or about 1/5/2021 licensee entered a guilty plea to the class B misdemeanor charge of DWI and class D misdemeanor of operating vehicle on highway without a valid license. On or about 7/12/2021 licensee entered a guilty plea to class A misdemeanor charge of DWI, person less than 17 in vehicle and class D misdemeanor of driving while revoked/suspended.

### **Sarah Anderson – Interpreter, 2004024256:**

*3-Year Probation / November 11, 2022-November 11, 2025*

Licensee worked as an Interpreter for 1 year without an Active license.

### **Kimberly Bishop – Interpreter, 2004010183:**

*2-Year Probation / November 23, 2022-November 23, 2024*

Licensee worked for 1 year without an Active license.

*DISCLAIMER: Every effort has been made to ensure that the following enforcement information is correct. However, this information should not be relied upon without verification from the Committee office. Discipline orders are public information and copies may be obtained via the website at [pr.mo.gov/interpreters](http://pr.mo.gov/interpreters), under Sub Navigation “Disciplined Licensees”. A licensee is entitled to engage in the practice of interpreting during his/her probationary period providing that the licensee adheres to all of the terms and conditions of the Order. However, a licensee whose license has been suspended, is not entitled to engage in the practice of interpreting during the suspension.*